

REMARKS

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuhiro et al. (JP 61-261011) in view of Vogt (U.S. Patent No. 2,759,618).

Katsuhiro is directed toward a taping device (abstract). Katsuhiro discloses that molds 41 and 42 are set on the lower suction pad 9 with a spacer 40, and then an upper suction pad 15 is lowered (abstract). Katsuhiro further discloses that the centers 41a and 42a of molds 41 and 42, respectively, are “set”, and the molds are held at a constant distance from one another whereby the taping for the molds is achieved (abstract).

The Examiner acknowledges that Katsuhiro fails to teach or suggest the claimed tape winding device, as recited in claim 5. Instead, the Examiner relies on Vogt as allegedly disclosing this claimed feature.

Vogt discloses a tape holder 10 with an applicator device which consists of a curved plate 26 and supporting plate 27 (col. 2, lines 10-18; col. 2, lines 35-37). Vogt further discloses that a spring 28 is secured to the upper end of the plate 27 and extends inwardly, engaging the snubbing surface 24 (col. 2, lines 40-43). When the tape is applied to a surface, Vogt discloses that “the holder is moved so that the free end of the tape is moved from a position indicated at 41 to the position shown at 42 and pressed against the desired surface by the applicator device” and that “[as] the holder is pressed against the surface and moved with respect thereto, the tape is unrolled from the roll and applied against the surface under pressure” (col. 2, lines 64-72). Vogt further discloses that “[when] the holder is removed from the surface the applicator member and plate 27 move outwardly to the position illustrated in Figure 1” (col. 3, lines 55-57).

The Examiner alleges that “[figure] 3 which is constructed to draw out the adhesive tape from the adhesive tape roll by moving the plate 27 of said applicator device against the backdrop

plate 25... thus releasing the snubber spring element 28 and permitting the tape to be withdrawn from the coil (Col. 3, lines 35-39) from position 41 to the position 42 of Figure 1” (Office Action, page 3) corresponds to the claimed feature of the claimed tape drawing-out device which moves from a first position to a second position so as to draw out the adhesive tape from the claimed adhesive tape roll. The Examiner further alleges that “after the holder is removed from the surface and the plate 27 of the applicator device moves outwardly to its original position” (Office Action, page 3) corresponds to the claimed tape drawing-out device moving from the second position to the first position when the adhesive tape is to be wound on a surface.

The Examiner appears to misunderstand the claimed invention or to be interpreting the claims improperly. The claimed invention recites that the tape drawing-out device moves from the first position to second position to draw out the tape, and from the second position back to the first position to apply the tape to a surface. In contrast, Vogt discloses the holder moves from position 41 to position 42 to draw out and apply the tape. For example, Vogt discloses that the holder is moved from position 41 to position 42, is pressed against a desired surface, and “[as] the holder is pressed against the surface and moved with respect thereto, the tape is unrolled from the roll and applied against the surface under pressure” (col. 2, lines 68-71). After the tape is finished being applied against the surface, then the holder is removed from the surface, and the holder moves outwardly back to position 41.

However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicant further amends claim 5 to recite the subject matter of dependent claim 6 and subject matter disclosed on page 7, lines 38-42 of the published application. Claim 6 is subsequently canceled. Claim 5, as amended, recites a lens-casting-mold assembling apparatus that is accommodated in a dust-proof room, comprising, *inter alia*, wherein said tape drawing-out device exerts a predetermined load on the

adhesive tape in moving so as to return to its original position when the adhesive tape is to be wound onto the peripheral surfaces of the concave and convex molds, and wherein a part of the adhesive tape drawn out beforehand is stuck. Neither Katsuhiro nor Vogt teach or suggest at least the claimed feature of “wherein a part of the adhesive tape drawn out beforehand is stuck”.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over the applied references.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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